



CALPEEK

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NO UNITY AMONG REPUBLICANS TO RECALL GOV. DAVIS. EFFORT STILL LACKS KEY DEMO SUPPORT.

Editor's note: While those favoring a recall election aimed at removing Gov. Gray Davis(D) from office are very vocal, the fact is that most of those doing all the yelling represent a small group of conservative Republicans. Still, these highly partisan GOPers got lots of news media attention at the just concluded CA Republican Party convention in Sacramento. Here's our analysis & commentary...

... On one side there's former CA Republican Party chair Shawn Steel, State Sen. Tom McClintock, former Assemblyman Howard Kaloogian and Ted Costa of *People's Advocate* – all screaming the same thing: Davis has been a disaster for Calif. About 400 of these Calif. conservatives showed up at a rally outside the State Capitol on the 2nd day of the CRP convention. Added to this mix of GOP hardliners are a handful of conservative talk radio hosts. And make no mistake, these radio hosts have large audiences...

... On the other side are the GOP pragmatists, who say that a recall will divert attention away from more serious problems facing the State GOP – making sure President George W. Bush is reelected in 2004 and ousting Demo U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer. Among those in this group are Assembly Leader Dave Cox and State Sen. Bruce McPherson. One CRP delegate told *Calpeek* that while the convention voted to endorse the recall, rank & file mainstream GOPers aren't interested in the recall. A new Public Policy Inst. of Calif. poll showed the economy, the Calif. budget crisis and a probable war with Iraq are upper most on peoples' minds...

... Two big problems remain for recall supporters: 1) Still NO key Democrats have signed on to the recall, but the Libertarian Party of Calif. passed a resolution at their recent convention endorsing the recall. 2) Where to find \$2-3 million to fund the recall petition drive? Contrary to popular belief, a recall can't be done on the cheap in cyberspace. Emails to potential petition circulators is OK, but to gather 1.2 million signatures requires the services of a petition manager, with paid circulators on the ground. *Calpeek* sources confirmed last week U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa of San

Diego is interested in running if the recall qualifies, but at the CRP convention he indicated he won't supply the big bucks for the qualification effort. Interesting...

... In the meantime, the *L.A. Times*, the *San Diego Union Tribune* and the *San Jose Mercury News* have all editorialized against the recall. The *Mercury News* editorial is perhaps the most interesting. "*Five years after the federal budget's largest surplus, Bush's budget would create its largest deficit. But Bush, being in the opposite party from Davis, has the opposite budget strategy: spending increases and tax cuts. So far, no denunciation of Bush by Sacramento Republicans as a fiscal nincompoop.*"...

... Demos remain hopeful that the recall won't get off the ground and history is on their side. Demo Sources tell *Calpeek* there's some new polling data which shows a recall against Davis going down by a margin of 58% NO vs. 29% YES. Stay tuned...

BUSH AT WAR: NEW POLLING DATA SHOWS CALIF. VOTERS DON'T APPROVE OF BUSH'S WAR POLICIES.

Editor's note: It shouldn't come as a huge shock, but a new Public Policy Inst. of Calif. survey shows that Calif. voters are NOT thrilled with Pres. George W. Bush's handling of a possible war with Iraq's Saddam Hussein. Here's our analysis & commentary...

... The PPIC survey was taken Feb. 6-17 among 988 likely Calif. voters – so the data is relatively fresh. The President's approval rating on handling a war with Iraq is 46% vs. 50% disapprove. Pres. Bush's overall approval rating (domestic & foreign) stands at 51% in Calif. vs. about 63% nationally. Part of GWB's problem, especially as it relates to a probable war with Iraq, is that 49% of those questioned say GWB has NOT made the case for war vs. 47% who say he has...

... With regard to Gulf War II, 53% favor the use of force under certain conditions; 42% oppose the use of force; and 5% are undecided in the new PPIC poll. Of the 53% who favor the use of force: 29% favor the go it alone strategy;

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20% favor war only if we've got a big coalition; and 4% favor the use of force, but don't have conditions...

...The new data confirms what is happening in other States: GWB's support is beginning to slump, but that will change if Bush can quickly win in Iraq. There's little doubt GWB intends to use force to remove Hussein – probably in mid-to-late March. And there's little doubt the U.S. and its coalition of the willing will win. What does a win mean? Regime change; immediate control over the oil; and few U.S. and coalition casualties. Total cost: **\$100 billion!!!**

...But to achieve this, GWB needs a strong Tony Blair, the British prime minister. Since the 1820s, the British have been the U.S.'s strongest ally. And while certain Bush Admin. insiders are accused of what's called unilateralism, the fact is the U.S. has never in modern times won a war without leading a "coalition of the willing," be it in WWI, WWII, Korea, Desert Storm or the Balkans. In fact, a strong argument can be made that it is the British who often stiffened U.S. resolve – be it Winston Churchill or Margaret Thatcher. FYI: had Thatcher not been dumped from office prior to the Gulf War in 1991, George Bush Sr. might have been persuaded by Thatcher to move on Baghdad to remove Saddam Hussein...

...How important is Blair? Sources believe he's done a better job than Bush in stating the case for disarming Iraq and regime change. And it's been Blair who has done some of the heavy lifting in Europe. And despite news reports to the contrary, Europe is a bright spot for the Bush/Blair team, not withstanding Germany or France. This is especially true of Eastern Europe or the new Europe as DOD Sec. Donald Rumsfeld likes to call it...

...But there's little doubt that Blair is having a tough time in the UK, as anyone who watches C-SPAN has seen. While Bush may not care about the millions of anti-war protesters in the U.S. (because they are not his base), the protesters in the UK are Blair's base. While the opposition Conservatives are about as dysfunctional as the Calif. Republican Party, they did give Blair enough votes so that he easily survived a vote of confidence Feb. 26th. Blair's major problem is his own Labor Party. Will he overcome these problems? Our sources think so...

...Fortunately for both Bush and Blair, they have in Saddam Hussein a true idiot who somehow manages to snatch defeat out of the jaws of victory. Hussein's refusal (thus far) to destroy the Al-Samoud II missiles is a real blunder. It not only makes the U.S./British case, but it makes France and Germany look foolish. How can these nations call for more

inspections when Hussein won't even obey the orders of chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix?? Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2004: UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE RACES.

Editor's note: Here is **Part IV** in our continuing series of updates about key Calif. Legislative & U.S. House primary contests in March of 2004. Here's our analysis...

☒ **31st SD** – This is the district of Republican Senate Leader Jim Brulte of Rancho Cucamonga. If there was a good reason to do away with term limits, look no further than Brulte. His loss to the GOP Senate Caucus will be felt. Regardless, Calpeek sources have IDed at least 2 potential GOP candidates to replace Brulte: Assemblymembers Bob Dutton and Russ Bogh. Dutton represents the 63rd AD and is Brulte's candidate. Dutton's dad is Ted Dutton, a big Lincoln Club honcho and GOP contributor. State Sen. Ross Johnson also endorsed Dutton. Bogh has deep pockets too, but he hasn't committed to running as yet. Both Dutton and Bogh had retained GOP consultant Steve Presson in previous campaigns...

...At one time former GOP Assemblymembers Rod Pacheco and Brett Granlund were also looking, but probably won't run. Pacheco and Brulte are political enemies and if you believe what Pacheco said in a recent Sacto BEE article, it was Brulte who signed off on a remapping plan which put the screws to Pacheco running for Brulte's seat in 2004. So Pacheco has been raising a war chest for a 2006 run for AG. Granlund had his eyes on Brulte's seat some time ago, but the ex Yucaipa councilman has since backed away...

☒ **27th SD** – This is the Long Beach district now represented by Sen. Betty Karnette(D) who is termed out of the Senate, but plans to run for the State Assembly's 54th AD – a seat now occupied by Alan Lowenthal(D-Long Beach/harbor), who hopes to replace Karnette. Karnette has endorsed Lowenthal. Lowenthal's main Demo rival at this point is Assemblyman Marco Firebaugh of South Gate. But sources say Firebaugh hasn't decided to run for sure and some think he'll take a pass, because the 27th SD's base is in Long Beach and that's Lowenthal's turf – he was on the Long Beach council for 6 years prior to running for the Assembly in 1998. Lowenthal's consultant is SG&A Campaigns...

☒ **19th SD** – This is the Ventura/Santa Barbara SD of State Sen. Tom McClintock(R-Camarillo). The new lines make McC's seat very safe turf. Bill Simon got 48.15% vs. 41.56% for Gov. Gray Davis(D). McC got 51.63% against Steve Westly(D) when these two battled for Controller. The only Demo name to surface is that of Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson, who represents Santa Barbara...

SUNDHEIM WINS CALIF. REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIR

Editor's note: For the past four months Palo Alto attorney Duf Sundheim has been traveling up & down Calif. in his quest to replace Shawn Steel as Chair of the CA Republican Party(CRP). On Feb. 23rd Sundheim defeated CRP Vice Chair Bill Back at the CRP's convention in Sacramento to win the chair's job for the next two years. Here's our commentary & analysis...

... The battle between Sundheim and Back was very bitter at times, but it didn't have a thing to do **abortion** – which in the past two elections for CRP chair has split the Calif. GOP wide open. While Sundheim is viewed as a moderate, and in fact may be on some other issues, on abortion he is **pro-life**. Don't know why, but some political reporters have yet to get this part of the story right...

... The fight between Sundheim and Back was more about *image* and the ability to raise money for a State party which is in terrible financial shape. (FYI: Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and NY Gov. George Pataki will be coming to Calif. to raise \$\$\$ for the party very soon). Sundheim's key selling point was that he'd raised over \$4 million for GOP candidates. Back's strong point were his links to grassroots conservatives. And what made this CRP's chair battling interesting was long running feud between Steel and Gerald Parsky, Pres. George W. Bush's point man in Calif. Parsky was the guy who pushed through a set of reforms to professionalize the party and thus take power away from the chair (read that as Steel's power). Back supported Parsky over Steel in this internal CRP struggle and Steel has never forgiven or forgotten. Steel and his allies were with Sundheim all the way...

... The actual vote was 666 for Sundheim vs. 489 for Back. Most sources thought Back might have an edge going into the convention – based on Back's work at the CRP and his close ties to conservative delegates. The turning point: *the debate*. Back attacked Sundheim, calling him a "country club Republican." Some think this turned off uncommitted delegates. Another key turning point: the Calif. GOP U.S. House delegation was decidedly pro-Sundheim – some were afraid that Back's election would send the wrong message – especially the stuff about Back's 1999 email newsletter. No reason to rehash that all over again, but some GOPers were afraid that the "Trent Lott" factor might surface in Calif. if Back were elected. Overall a very nice win for Johnson Clark Assoc., Gilliard, Blanning & Wysocki, Dan Schnur, Phil Paule, Jim Camp and Steve Grand. How much did it cost? Anywhere between \$150,000 to \$250,000 – typical for such a CRP campaign...

...In somewhat of an upset, CRP Asst. Sec. Mario Rodriguez defeated CRP Southern Regional Vice Chair Lois Godfrey by a slim 40 votes to become the new CRP Vice Chair. Godfrey & Sundheim were linked together and so were Back & Rodriguez. In picking Sundheim and Rodriguez, delegates seemed to go for change. Rodriguez got into the vice chair's race late (26 days before the CRP convention) and sources are sure his entry was at the behest of the Bush White House. Sources say the Bush WH was looking for some *pay back* against Godfrey, who supported Steel over Parsky. Sources say Latino GOPers worked very hard for Rodriguez's election and Assemblyman Bob Pacheco's "If not now, when?" speech turned the tide for Rodriguez, who was an underdog to Godfrey. A very nice win for Jenny Korn, who ran the Rodriguez campaign. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2003: UPDATE ON L.A. MUNICIPAL RACES

Editor's note: Here is *Calpeek's* final update and analysis prior to the Mar. 4th muni election in L.A. All even numbered seats on the council are up, but the focus of attention is really on only 3 seats: 10th & 12th Districts – both OPEN with no incumbent; and the 14th District where Councilman Nick Pacheco is under siege from former Demo Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa. *Calpeek* sources think that citywide voter turnout will be about 22-25% - but probably much lower in the 10th and 14th districts...

◆ **10th District** – Most sources now see this contest for Councilman Nate Holden's seat as a 3-way race between Holden's top deputy Deron Williams, former AFL-CIO labor leader Martin Ludlow and educator Madison Shockley, who ran against Holden four years ago. Former State Assemblyman Rod Wright needs a huge effort to make the runoff and most don't see that happening, despite the fact that Wright is being backed by influential U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters. The only poll to "leak out" showed Williams in first, followed by Shockley and Ludlow, with Wright actually trailing attorney Leo Terrell. Most sources think Williams will make the runoff with either Shockley or Ludlow. A labor-backed GOTV push is in the works for Ludlow. The key question: can labor deliver for Ludlow???

◆ **12th District** – It's beat up on the frontrunner time in this battle to replace *termed out* Councilman Hal Bernson. This Northern San Fernando Valley district is a hotbed of anti-city hall and anti-LAUDS feeling – thus some see the frontrunner as former GOP Assemblywoman Paula Boland. Other sources think the frontrunner is Greig Smith, Bernson's COS for the past 24 years. He's the best funded of 4 serious candidates. Few see LAUSD member Julie Korenstein as the frontrunner, but there are some sources who be-

lieve she will make the runoff. Her main problem is developer Rob Vinson, a fresh face who has the ability to drain key Demo support away from Korenstein. Most sources think Vinson has a tough time making the runoff, but he's been an effective campaigner. Bottomline: any of the three main top tier rivals could be in the runoff. A toss up...

● **14th District** – Will there be a runoff – or does Councilman Nick Pacheco or Antonio Villaraigosa win outright? Few think that former Olympic boxer Paul Gonzales has a shot. So who wins? Depends who you talk to. Most think this contest is just too close to call. A big GOTV effort + IEs for both, but the L.A. Co. Federation of Labor is really pulling out all the stops for Villaraigosa. Villaraigosa has also won 2 key endorsements: Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante and State Sen. Gil Cedillo. This is not to say that Pacheco doesn't have his share of good endorsements too – he does. L.A. Mayor Jim Hahn and L.A. City Atty. Rocky Delgadillo are both backing Pacheco. Key areas to watch: Eagle Rock and Boyle Heights. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **S.F. Mayor's Race Update** – S.F. Co. Sup. Tom Ammiano made it official – as he kicked off his campaign on Feb. 26th to replace termed out Mayor Willie Brown. This is the 61-year-old supes 2nd run for mayor. Four years ago Ammiano pulled off the impossible: running a last minute write-in campaign which got him into a runoff with Brown, who eventually won – big. S.F. Co. Sup. Gavin Newsom is due to officially kick off his campaign Mar. 8th. Newsom has opened an HQ on Van Ness (415)359-0230. Jim Ross is Newsom's cmp. mgr., while Eric Jaye is the campaign/media consultant...

■ **Full Metal Jacket** – Gun control is always a hot button issue in Calif., but right now there are very few high profile gun bills in the works. Why? Budget problems; nervousness over what impact a high profile gun bill might have on a proposed recall aimed at Gov. Gray Davis; or because Calif. is so far ahead of the rest of the U.S. Some of new gun bills just introduced are aimed at improving the DOJ's data base, while other bills are aimed at making it harder for juveniles who were convicted of crimes to get their hands on guns before they turn 30. One controversial bill thus far: AB 992 by Demo Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas of L.A. This bill would impose a FEE of 10 cents on each bullet sold to fund trauma care. Who uses ammo? Largest users are line cops, followed by hunters and target shooters. And many of these folks are blue collar/union

swing voters. It's not likely Gov. Davis would sign this bill and sources say it probably won't come close to reaching the governor's desk. The last thing Davis needs is for the NRA to get involved in funding a recall...

■ **No Charges Filed Against Samuelian** – Assemblyman Steve Samuelian(R-Fresno) dodged a political bullet which could have ended his career when the Fresno City Atty. decided NOT to file charges against him for loitering in an area frequented by hookers. Mr. Lucky...

■ **The Porter Novelli Shuffle** – Porter Novelli Calif., Porter Novelli Wash. DC and Goddard Claussen Porter Novelli have combined to form Porter Novelli Public Affairs(PNPA), with Calif. offices in Sacto, San Diego and Orange Co. The other big PNPA office is in Wash. DC. The PNPA *practice leader* is partner/exec. vp Donna Lucas, who was CEP/president of NCG Porter Novelli. All of the key officers from NCG P/N made the transition, as well as most from Goddard Claussen P/N – including Frank Schubert. As for Richard Claussen and Ben Goddard, they remain in their Goddard Claussen/PN positions for the time being. GC/PN is campaign management as opposed to public affairs...

CALPEEK's NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● SOS Kevin Shelley has appointed L.A. attorney Stephen Kaufman to serve on the Voting Modernization Board (created by passage of Prop. 41)...

● Consumer Attorneys of CA have moved to 770 "L" Street, Ste. 1200, Sacramento, CA 95814. Same phone number (916)442-6902...

● Reelected to a 10th term as chair of the Orange Co. GOP Central Cmt. – Tom Fuentes. 1st Vice chair is Dr. Jo Ellen Allen and 2nd Vice chair is Bob Zemel...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Mar. 4	L.A. muni election + 62 other Calif. cities.
Mar. 14	17 th Annual Hall of Fame Awards luncheon Nat'l Assn. of Women Business Owners at Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills.
Mar. 14-16	CA Democratic Party state convention, Sacramento.
Mar. 27	6 th annual L.A. Political Roast, Beverly Hilton Hotel, 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner.
Apr. 3	Pat Brown Inst. 22 nd annual awards dinner, Millennium Biltmore Hotel, L.A.
May 20	L.A. muni runoff election.